

Serial No. 09/179,188

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IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-19 (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~recovering a~~
recovery of nucleic acid acids from a ~~nucleic acid-bearing~~
material material containing nucleic acids, which comprises
the steps of:

~~releasing a nucleic acid from a nucleic acid bearing~~
~~material and forming an aqueous solution containing the~~
~~released nucleic acid;~~

~~adding a chaotropic agent to an aqueous solution~~
~~containing the released nucleic acid;~~

~~contacting and a step for mixing the solution containing~~
~~the released nucleic acids and the a nucleic acid-containing~~
~~material with an accelerator substance containing a chaotropic~~
~~agent with a substance containing silicon oxide thereby to~~
~~bind the for the binding of nucleic acids to the substance a~~
solid phase containing silicon oxide;

a step for contacting the mixture obtained in said mixing
step to the solid phase containing silicon oxide;

a step for isolating the substance to which solid phase
binding the nucleic acid is contacted acids from the ~~solution~~
mixture;

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~~a step for washing the isolated substance with an aqueous~~
~~washing solid phase binding the nucleic acids with a solution~~
~~containing a chaotropic substance and washing said solid phase~~
~~with a solution containing alcohol and acetate; and~~

~~a step for eluting the nucleic acid bound to the~~
~~substance from the adsorbing acids from the solid phase~~
~~obtained in said washing step, and~~
~~removing alcohol contained in the eluted nucleic acid,~~
~~wherein the releasing step through the eluting step are~~
~~conducted separately and in turn.~~

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein the alcohol is ethanol.

Claims 22-23 (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 23 20, wherein the acetate is sodium acetate or potassium acetate.

Claims 25-28 (Canceled)

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29. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 29 20, which further comprises:

~~the step of providing an aqueous fourth solution containing a salt and an alcohol for washing the separated substance, conducted separately after the separating step, the step of providing an aqueous fifth solution containing a buffer for eluting the nucleic acid from the substance; and~~

the step of removing alcohol and ~~salt~~ acetate remaining in the eluted nucleic acid.

Claims 30-32 (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 20, wherein said contacting ~~and mixing~~ step includes stirring the mixture ~~containing the released nucleic acid, chaotropic agent, and substance obtained in the mixing step with the solid phase~~ at room temperature to ~~form a nucleic acid binding~~ bind the nucleic acids to the solid phase.

34. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 20, wherein the ~~substance includes a solid phase is~~ selected from the group consisting of glass beads, silica

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powder, quartz filter paper, quartz wool, diatomaceous earth, and crushed products of said glass beads, silica powder, quartz filter paper, or quartz wool.

35. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 20, wherein the washing step ~~is performed with an aqueous washing solution that~~ does not elute the binding nucleic ~~acid acids~~ from the ~~substance solid phase~~.

36. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 20, wherein the ~~substance is a~~ solid phase includes particles having a particle size of about 1 to about 100 μm .

Claims 37-52 (Canceled)